

3349 '99 AUG -4 P2:35

August 2, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (FA-305)
Food & Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket Numbers: 98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0197.

Each year, the US Egg industry force molts to manipulate egg production. Forced molting is so stressful that it destroys the hens' immune system, predisposing the birds and their eggs to salmonella poison.

The FDA must do more than put Bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and regulate egg refrigeration temperatures.

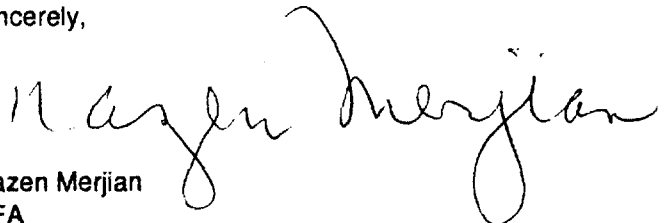
The FDA should prohibit the practice of forced molting because forced molting has been scientifically shown to promote disease by destroying the starving hens' immune systems.

The FDA has jurisdiction to ban farm practices, such as forced molting, that injure human health.

The cruelty of forced molting and the contamination it predisposes are linked.

The FDA was petitioned in April 1998 to ban forced molting. This petition should be granted without further delay.

Sincerely,


Nazen Merjian
VFA

96P-0418

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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ C 5-4

See File Number: 97P-0197/ C 5-5

96P 0418/ C 5-4